Vol. IV No. 2 Fall 1996

SHORE LINE

Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

CENTER SPONSORS COVERLET EXHIBIT AT UNIVERSITY GALLERY

WINTER TERM HOURS

Monday 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Wednesday
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed Monday 23 December through Friday 27 December and Wednesday, **New Year's Day**

Closed Thursdays and Fridays through January 1997

(410) 543-6312

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Hawthorne Loans Coverlets

Coverlets are bed coverings woven on a jacquard loom during the nineteenth century, the earliest in 1817, continuing through about 1875 in the Centennial period. These dates apply to jacquard coverlets. There are non-jacquard coverlets and there will be two non-jacquard coverlets in the exhibit. The jacquard process involves a card with design formats. There also are various other forms.

The coverlet collection of Mrs. Kay Hawthorne of Greenwood, Delaware will be displayed in the University Gallery, Fulton Hall at Salisbury State University beginning **3 February 1997** through 9 March 1997. Mrs. Hawthorne and Dr. Clarita Anderson are co-founders of the University of Maryland Historic Textile Database, copyrighted in 1986. The textile database contains approximately 9000 documented coverlets.

The signed and dated coverlets identify sixteen states, New York and New Jersey being the first areas, then the weavers moved west. This exhibition of coverlets will consist of pictorial designs including patriotic symbols, flora and fauna, transportation, architecture and animals, all part of the American scene.

Many of the weavers immigrated to the United States in the early nineteenth century from Germany, Scotland and England and of course, after that, many were native born. With the exception of one woman who was the daughter of a weaver from Indiana, the weavers were professional males. The coverlets consist of "two-weave" structures: The double weave which was primarily in the British tradition and the tied Biederwand which is the German tradition.

This exhibition will display 51 coverlets or samples, one of the largest exhibits assembled of this form. Many of the coverlets are signed and dated with the weaver's name, location and client's name and, of course, many are unidentified. Others were identified by the logos used. Many commemorated occasions such as births, marriages, sixteenth or twenty-first birthdays. Many people are under the impression

that these were itinerant weavers, but such is not the case. A jacquard loom is almost two stories high, thus making it impractical to move.

A partial color catalog of this unique exhibit will be available for sale during the exhibition and thereafter at the Research Center.

Thompson and Gering Speak to Eastern Shore Society

Board Chairman, George Gering, Jr. ("Buzz") and Board member and History Department Chair, G. Ray Thompson, recently travelled to Baltimore to speak before The Eastern Shore Society of Baltimore City, Inc. to introduce and promote the Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture. The speaking engagement was arranged by Board member Charles C. "Bert" Thornton, Sr., who is also a member and vice-president of the Eastern Shore Society.

The Eastern Shore Society was founded in 1913 with its stated purpose as ". . .to preserve and foster an appreciation of the history, traditions, and pleasant memories of the Eastern Shore of Maryland."

" To all Eastern Shoremen Where e'er dispersed."

From *Tales of Old Maryland*, 1907

History Students Use Center Daily

September saw an increase of 211% from the previous September in visits to the Research Center, with SSU students accounting for 61% of the total. 250 students from fourteen history classes, including ProSeminar in History, Civil War, U.S. History 201 and 202, The New Nation and Colonial and Revolutionary America visited our facility to be introduced to what we have to offer.

Students from U.S. History 201 were required to analyze the lives of colonial Somerset countians from the Seaboard Side (now Worcester) using inventories of deceased persons' estates as a benchmark. We hope to have some great papers come out of these classes.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of student use of the Research Center has generated from Dean Fafoutis' ProSeminar in History class. Fafoutis required his class to select a topic about Delmarva so the research could be done here, using primary resources. We are on tenterhooks awaiting the results of the research and will report paper topics in the Winter newsletter.

We are pleased that the Research Center is meeting its mission of providing a regional historical "laboratory" for our SSU history students.

Long-Awaited Microfilm Arrives

Last Spring we ordered from the Maryland Hall of Records (MdHR) numerous documents we wanted microfilmed that had not previously been filmed. Records that were ordered which have filled gaps in our holdings include:

- Somerset County Judicial Records 1775-1801 (9 reels)
- Somerset County Commissioners of the Tax (Assessment Ledger) 1817-1822 (2 reels)
- Adjutant General's Enrollment Records 1862 [Somerset Co.] (2 reels)
- Land Office Debt Books 1733-1774 (Somerset and Worcester Cos.) (8 reels).

Pages 3+4

missing

soc.genealogy.surnames, and soc.genealogy.computing. Other news group subjects include: methods, medieval, Jewish, Slavic, German and methods.

Genealogy via E-MAIL: This is the most reasonable method of communication. Genealogy postings are available free through LISTSERV which was set up to avail USENET files to E-MAIL. The ROOTS-L mail service for example has thousands of subscribers and a ROOTS-L Digest automatically posts information submissions and requests for help on a near daily basis. The USENET news group postings discussed above are available on E-MAIL through the LISTSERV service. Among these are: the French lists GEN-FF-L (French language on French subjects) and GEN-FR-L (English language on French subjects). The GEN-FR-L postings are the soc.genealogy.french listings. There are a number of mail boards available. A few are given below:
ROOTS-L General Genealogy exchange, GEN-FF-L French Genealogy in French,
GEN-FR-L French Genealogy in English,
GENCMP-L Genealogy computing.
GEN-OBIT Obituaries worldwide
To subscribe to any one, send to:
LISTSERV@mail.eworld.com
SUB ROOTS-L your name (first last)

Your request for subscription will be acknowledged and you will receive, via E-MAIL, instructions for use. Individuals can also post to the ROOTS SURNAME LIST (RSL). The RSL identifies ongoing research by surname and gives the time periods and geographical areas of interest including the active researcher.

Getting the list is simple. You merely send a message as follows:
To:
LISTSERV@mail.eworld.com
Subj: (leave blank)
GET family index
or if you want to request one or more surnames from the index,
To: listserv@mail.eworld.com
FIND RSL JONES etc.
Genealogical Tools using File Transfer Protocol(FTP). This is a very efficient means of downloading large files. These may be software programs (Brothers Keepers 5.2, for example), software utilities for communications (UUENCODE, EUDORA, PKZIP/UNZIP, etc.), or data files.
There are a number of addresses that enable the downloading of software. One of these is:
ftp.emcee.com
Use 'anonymous' for the password. When connected, select the following directories in succession: cd, pub, genealogy, software; the index gives a brief statement of each item. The RSL is also available through this address and finally the RSL of interest for download as a text file. Special purpose software and utilities are also available at:
oak.oakland.edu
under the directories:
simter-win95 and pc-blue/utility.

Genealogy using the World Wide Web, or simply the WEB. The WEB has become a predominant means of communication. It is functional, easy to use, adaptable and offers an instant directory (as the name implies) to the world. You truly have the world at your hands. In one instant you can be looking for a telephone white page listing in Australia, a short time later you can be searching for information in Lyon, France and within a equally short period, thereafter, you can be searching through an RSL for Acadian ancestors. The WEB allows the preparation of Pages within which specific topics are highlighted.

These essentially become a directory of INTERNET subject or topics, each of which is linked to an electronic address (called Universal Resource Link or URL). Thus, with a click of the mouse and you are rapidly connected to another directory, or the source of information, or a downloadable file. The number of such genealogical pages appears to be endless and continues to expand. A growing number of individuals are setting up their own Home Pages',to include their family history as well as a directory of subjects of interest to them. Many, if not most, home pages provide links to a wide variety of resources. An example is, the National Genealogical Society at:
http://www.genealogy.com/~ngs/
Another is Brian's Genealogy Hotlist:
http://www.sfo.com/~genealogysf/hotlista.html
Both offer links to many other genealogy sources.
If you are interested in the Virginia Eastern Shore:
Http://www.esva.net/ghotes/
An excellent source of software and utilities is available at:
ftp://ftp.cac.psu.edu/pub/genealogy/
The Rand Genealogy Club offers the RSL, medieval and historical sources plus access to major archives:
http://www.rand.org/personal/Genea/
Happy surfing!!!
[*Bob is a member and frequent visitor to the Research Center.*]

Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture
SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY
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Salisbury, MD 21801

Location: Power Professional Building
Wayne & Milford Streets

May the Joys of the Christmas Season
be with you all year through

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The acquisition of these records was made possible through a grant via The Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society. While purchasing film that has already been filmed is relatively inexpensive, the soul who initially requests a filming is hit hard--to the tune of fifteen cents an image.

The next set of originally microfilmed records we plan to order are the patent records for Maryland from 17__ through 17__, now that Peter Coldham has--for all intents and purposes--provided an index to same.

Dr. Bart Talbert has requested that we also have filmed the Worcester County Adjutant's List for 1862 as he already has ideas for student projects using these records.

Special Collections

this will be longer

96.04
96.05 Claude Blades Collection
96.06 James R. Perry microfilms
96.07 Sergeant Wells Collection
96.08 James Krewatch Collection
90.09 Women's Quilts, Womens' Voices Collection
96.10 Tunnell Family Collection
96.11 Potpourri from Our Files
96.12 Godrey Family Papers
96.13
96.14
96.15
96.16
96.17
96.18
96.19

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AARP HEARS TALK

Director of the Research Center, Rebecca F. Miller, recently spoke before a large audience comprised of members of the American Association of Retired Persons at the Wicomico County Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury.

Ms. Miller brought a number of old documents and artifacts to illustrate her speech concerning the function of the Research Center as a repository for historic documents and items concerning the Delmarva Peninsula.

The audience response was gratifying and it is hoped that donations of items will be forthcoming.